

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 5, 16 and 29 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 7-15, 17, 19 and 24-25 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 33-42 have been added. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 5-6, 16, 18, 20-23 and 26-42 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 7 and 16 are objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1, 7 and 16 have been amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7 and 16 and their dependent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection

Claims 7-10, 11-15 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the reference; however, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, Applicants cancel claims 7-10, 11-15 and 24-25 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of breadth similar to that of the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 5-10, 12, 14-16, 18, 20-21 and 28-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Donohue, U.S. Patent No. 6,484,197 ("Donohue").

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of the reference and the pending claims. However, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, Applicants amend the independent claims to include the subject matter indicated as

allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 16 and their dependent claims.

New Claims

(Claims 33-42)

New independent claim 33 contains limitations similar to those of claim 1 and thus is distinguished over Donohue. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit claim 33 and their dependent claims are allowable over Donohue.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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